Payment of sugarcane dues

3441. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sugar cane dues pending for payment to farmers against sugar mills during the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) the time since when the said dues are pending for payment;

(c) whether the farmers are giving up sugar cane cultivation as a result of the hardship being faced by them due to pending dues; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure payment dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sector-wise and sugar season-wise status of outstanding cane price arrears, as on 15.01.2008, was as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sector	For the current sugar season 2007-08	For the last sugar season 2006-07	For sugar season 2005-06 & earlier	Total cane price arrears
Public	69.05	48.69	9.26	127.00
Cooperative	1251.39	152.80	69.96	1474.15
Private	1138.23	1017.39	165.38	2321.00
TOTAL:	2458.67	1218.88	244.60	3922.15

(c) and (d) No such reports have so far been received by the Central Government. However, the Central Government has taken a slew of measures, to help the sugar industry to clear the cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers, details of which are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to S.Q. 466 Part (c) and (d)].

Warehousing facilities to farmers of Maharashtra

3442. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state what possible steps Government are undertaking to provide proper warehousing facilities to Maharashtra farmers, so as, to avoid the post harvest losses of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Primarily, there are three Government Agencies *viz.* (i) Food Corporation of India (FCI), (ii) Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and (iii) State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) which are engaged in building storage/warehousing capacities for foodgrains, which provide scientific storage facilities to avoid post harvest losses of the produce. While the FCI does not provide the